

Earth Day 2007 Publicity Events Booklet

Table of Contents

ARKANSAS	3
CALIFORNIA	8
IDAHO	13
INDIANA	16
KENTUCKY	18
LOUISIANA.....	20
MARYLAND	23
MICHIGAN	27
MISSOURI.....	31
NEBRASKA	39
NEW HAMPSHIRE.....	44
PENNSYLVANIA	46
PUERTO RICO.....	54
SOUTH CAROLINA	58
SOUTH DAKOTA.....	60
TENNESSEE.....	67
UTAH	70
WASHINGTON.....	72
WISCONSIN.....	76

ARKANSAS

Northeast Arkansas Public Water Authority

Friday, April 20, 2007

Water treatment project to benefit NEA



Susan O'Connor | The Sun

Roy Smith, state director of USDA-Rural Development, signs a \$6.7 million check on Thursday at Walnut Ridge for a regional water project. A.J. Henry Jr., chairman of the Northeast Arkansas Public Water Authority, smiles in the background.

By Susan O'Connor

Sun staff writer

WALNUT RIDGE -- Dignitaries gathered Thursday afternoon at Firemen's Hall in Walnut Ridge for the announcement of \$6.7 million in federal grants for a regional water project.

Once complete, the new surface water treatment plant of the Northeast Arkansas Public Water Authority will be capable of producing 3 million gallons of water per day for cities all over the region, thus reducing the use of groundwater. The plant will be located on Spring River, near the confluence of the ElevenPoint River.

In addition to the construction of the treatment plant, there will be a major water transmission line to take the water from the treatment plant to the areas to be served.

"This is a great day for our project," said A.J. Henry Jr., chairman of the Public Water Authority. "I've been involved with this for five years, and we've overcome a number of hurdles. A number of us have put in a lot of work, a lot of effort and a lot of time. This is something that is desperately needed. When we looked at this, we knew it wasn't immediately needed, but we were looking to the future."

About the Authority

The Public Water Authority was created in early 2003 to develop a long-range plan to treat and distribute water to communities in Lawrence County and Northeast Arkansas. Initially, the new plant will distribute water to Alicia, Hoxie, Walnut Ridge and a portion of the Lawrence County Regional Water service area.

The plant, however, will have the capacity to serve a much larger area.

"Twenty years from now, not only will these people be served, but many others -- you mark my word," predicted Stewart Noland, engineer for the project. ... Most importantly, that's the board's attitude. You want it, you can have it. It's an attitude that has been there

all along."

Henry said this project is the logical solution to the serious problem of falling water tables in Northeast Arkansas.

Most of the current water treatment systems in the Arkansas Delta are in excess of 40 years old," according to Rickey Carter of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Groundwater in these areas has decreased in the past few years because of drier than normal conditions and the increased use of water for agricultural irrigation. Carter said that both the Arkansas State Health Department and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission encourage the use of water from sources other than the existing wells, as well as the regionalization of water systems.

"Our wells are old -- all the towns are in the same shape," Public Water Authority board member Gary Little said. "You're having to go deeper to get ground water. This will be shallow wells that draw water from the ground near the river. We'll use rural water lines that already exist to get the water to these towns."

The \$6.7 million is being funded from the Rural Utility Service, part of the Department of Agriculture as part of the nationwide celebration of Earth Day 2007.

In addition to the USDA-Rural Development funding, the Public Water Authority has applied to the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission for \$4.3 million in loan assistance and to the Delta Regional Authority for a \$300,000 grant. These applications are expected to be approved in the next few months.

Total funding for the project will be \$11.5 million.

"On many different levels, this is a cooperative effort," Noland said. "It has been a long road, but we're there. We'll be breaking ground next year."

April 25, 2007

Public Water Authority receives partial funding

Amber Adams
Staff Writer

Roy Smith, state director of USDA Rural Development, announced the partial funding of a water project for the Northeast Arkansas Public Water Authority last Thursday. During the public meeting, A.J. Henry, chairman of the NEAPWA, was presented with a check for \$6,700,000.



Roy Smith, state director of USDA Rural Development, presents A.J. Henry, chairman of the Northeast Arkansas Public Water Authority, with a check for \$6.7 million dollars for an upcoming water project.

State Sen Robert Thompson, State Rep JR Rogers were also in attendance, along with representatives from Congressman Marion Berry and Senators Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor.

"This is a fitting example of how federal, state and local leaders can work together to make critical investments in our infrastructure," Pryor said in a written statement. "This funding helps address an essential need for the residents of Lawrence County."

The Public Water Authority was created in early 2003 to develop a long-range plan to treat and distribute water to communities in Lawrence County and other areas of northeast Arkansas.

The communities that will initially be served include Alicia, Hoxie, Walnut Ridge and a portion of the Lawrence County Regional Water. Portia plans to hook to the system for a backup supply of water.

In addition to this funding, the PWA has applied for a loan from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for \$4,300,000, which was also awarded on Thursday. A \$300,000 grant from the Delta Regional Authority has also been applied for.

"A lot of effort, a lot of time and a lot of work have gone into this project," Henry said, "but we have found a logical solution to our problem."

The new treatment plant will be capable of producing 3,000,000 gallons of water per day and have an onsite well for water storage. The plant will replace outdated treatment systems, many of which are more than 40 years old and rely on ground water produced from shallow wells. The water treatment plant, which will serve approximately 8,000, is expected to be in full production by summer of 2009.

CALIFORNIA

Esparto Community Services District



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

World Wide Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>

Ben Higgins, State Director

Release No. 13.07

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES EARTH DAY IN ESPARTO

Announces funding to make repairs to water and wastewater systems

DAVIS, Calif., April 23, 2007- USDA Rural Development celebrated Earth Day 2007 in the community of Esparto today by announcing Esparto Community Services District (CSD) as the recipient of a combined total of \$5.1 million in loans for water and wastewater improvements. This major funding will allow the unincorporated community of Esparto to upgrade and repair their wastewater and domestic water systems.

“We are committed to ensuring rural Californians have access to clean, safe drinking water and effective wastewater treatment facilities,” said Ben Higgins, USDA Rural Development State Director. “Many communities such as Esparto face strong difficulties in financing these improvements because of the higher costs seen in California, and so we are proud to be able to partner with them to make these projects a possibility.”

Esparto CSD’s existing wastewater system is hard pressed to serve the community, and has deteriorated to the extent effluent spills or operational risks are increasingly likely. In addition, the district is operating on only three of their six wells and has very limited water storage facilities. A loan of \$1,579,000 will be used to repair and replace pipes throughout the sewage collection system, replace the existing lift station with a 900 gallon per minute facility and construct a 1.9 acre wastewater treatment lagoon. An additional loan for \$3,584,000 will be used to drill a new well, install a 500,000 gallon storage tank, upgrade the water control system and replace 18,900 feet of pipe. With the new upgrades, the community will reach compliance with both the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan and the EPA Clean Water Act.

“With the funding from USDA Rural Development everyone will benefit,” said Larry Kieny, Board Chairman Esparto CSD. “The district has been working with antiquated systems, our infrastructures have been failing and are very close to not meeting environmental regulations, but these projects will allow us to deliver better services to the community, savings to the district and ensure the environment is protected. It’s a win-win-win situation.”

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, over 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at one of California's 25 local USDA Rural Development offices or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca>.

"Committed to the future of rural communities"
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES EARTH DAY IN ESPARTO

Millions in loans will be used to repair town's water system

Daily Democrat

Article Created: 04/25/2007 10:11:06 AM PDT

The USDA Rural Development celebrated Earth Day 2007 in Esparto Monday by announcing Esparto Community Services District as the recipient of a combined total of \$5.1 million in loans for water and wastewater improvements.

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Esparto CSD's existing wastewater system is hard pressed to serve the community, and has deteriorated to the extent effluent spills or operational risks are increasingly likely.

In addition, the district is operating on only three of their six wells and has very limited water storage facilities. A loan of \$1.579 million will be used to repair and replace pipes throughout the sewage collection system, replace the existing lift station with a 900 gallon per minute facility and construct a 1.9 acre wastewater treatment lagoon.

An additional loan for \$3.584 million will be used to drill a new well, install a 500,000 gallon storage tank, upgrade the water control system and replace 18,900 feet of pipe.

With the new upgrades, the community will reach compliance with both the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan and the EPA Clean Water Act.

"With the funding from USDA Rural Development everyone will benefit," said Larry Kieny, Board Chairman of the Esparto CSD.

"The district has been working with antiquated systems, our infrastructures have been failing and are very close to not meeting environmental regulations, but these projects will allow us to deliver better services to the community, savings to the district and ensure the environment is protected. It's a win-win-win situation."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a

way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents.

As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

As a result, over 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments.



IDAHO

City of Lapwai

City of Lapwai

Outline of Need:

The City of Lapwai's existing aerated lagoon and land application basin are at capacity and can no longer meet the land application permit requirements. It has been long suspected that the discharge of this old inadequate system has adversely impacted the water quality of Lapwai Creek, which runs the length of the Lapwai Valley.

How Rural Development Helped:

For many years USDA Rural Development has worked with the Nez Perce Tribe, the City of Lapwai, and the State of Idaho to plan for a regional wastewater treatment plant. To coincide with Earth Day, USDA Rural Development will announce approval of a loan for \$319,000 and grant assistance in the amount of \$848,000. The City will combine this funding with other sources to purchase capacity in the new Lapwai Valley Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant and Interceptor line.

The Lapwai Valley Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and Interceptor line is being developed by the Nez Perce Tribe. The City received a Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Grant for \$20,000, and is expecting a Community Development Block Grant of \$500,000 from the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor. The City will contribute \$28,000 of its own funds for the project. Last year Rural Development approved a loan in the amount of \$2,000,000 and a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to the Nez Perce Tribe to be used to develop the Lapwai Valley Regional Wastewater Treatment System.

The Results:

An Earth Day Celebration was held on April 23, 2007. After the check presentations, there was a tree planting ceremony and poster winner Victoria Smith, 4th Grade, Lapwai Elementary School, was recognized. Construction on the project is slated to begin late this year. The proposed Membrane Bioreactor Treatment Plant is the most cost effective means for treatment of the regionalized system's wastewater. The new system will enable the City to meet regulatory requirements, and improve and protect the water quality of Lapwai Creek.



Corky Fazio, Mayor and Victoria Smith



Nez Perce Tribe Members

INDIANA

Town of Leesburg



Times-Union

Monday, April 23, 2007

Serving Warsaw and Kosciusko County Since 1854

Leesburg Receives Sewer Project Loan From USDA

M.J. Rhodes

Times-Union Lifestyles Editor

Monday, April 23, 2007

LEESBURG - The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development helped Leesburg celebrate Earth Day Friday by presenting a low-interest loan of \$3,208,000.



Photo by M.J. Rhodes, Times-Union
Pictured at the presentation of the check representing the loan from USDA Rural Development for the Leesburg sewer project are (L to R): Ryan Robinson, Leesburg town board; Ed Riordan, street commissioner; Jay Weaver and Rick Stookey, town board; and Laura Freeman, representing USDA Rural Development. Photo by M.J. Rhodes, Times-Union.

The funds will be used for the construction of a the new sewer system and a recirculating sand filter treatment facility.

Indiana State Director for Rural Development Robert White said, "USDA Rural Development is providing millions of dollars to rural communities nationwide today to support the efforts of rural cities and towns like Leesburg to improve their water and wastewater disposal systems. Congratulations to the residents of Leesburg for making this important commitment in conjunction with Earth Day to protect the environment and well-being of your community."

Like many small rural communities, Leesburg relies on individual septic systems and private wells for their sewage treatment and drinking water. With lot sizes being a quarter of an acre or less, this does not leave any room to meet today's health requirements if a septic system fails. Failed septic systems can lead to serious health issues including e. coli contamination.

E. coli is what the Kosciusko County Health Department found during routine water sampling from the basins and ditches surrounding Leesburg. The source of this contamination was sewage from individual septic systems discharging into the area ditches.

The levels of e. coli found exceeded both state and federal limits. These high levels caused concern with both the Kosciusko County Health Department and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Due to these health issues, Leesburg entered into an Agreed Order with IDEM in 2005.

Leesburg representatives contacted USDA Rural Development for financing in August 2005. With the financial assistance of Rural Development, grants from the Office of Community & Rural Affairs, Kosciusko County and Leesburg's contribution, the town will construct and install a low-pressure grinder pump system for collection, and the treatment will be regionalized by the city of Warsaw. The new wastewater collection and treatment system will strengthen the infrastructure of Leesburg by removing a health risk.

In addition to the USDA Rural Development loan, \$1,050,000 will be raised through grants: Leesburg, \$200,000; Kosciusko County, \$350,000; and OCRA, \$500,000.

The OCRA grant is dependent upon receiving the necessary easements for grinder pumps from individual property owners. Town officials encourage those who have not returned their easements to do so as soon as possible.

Single family home loans, rural rental housing, water and waste water facility funding, business and industry loan, and community facility loans and grants are financial resources available from USDA Rural Development. For more information, contact the USDA Rural Development, Plymouth Local Office, 2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, or call 574-936-2024, Ext. 4.

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KENTUCKY

City of Whitesburg



Local, State and Federal officials gathered for Earth Day festivities in Whitesburg to celebrate funding for the City's new wastewater treatment plant. The new treatment plant will provide adequate wastewater treatment and collection service for both existing and new users, eliminate potential health hazards, and provide the reserve capacity necessary to support growth of this Appalachian community.

This \$6.4 million project was funded in part by a \$922,000 WEP loan and a \$500,000 WEP grant from USDA Rural Development. Possible funding partners include: HUD-CDBG, EPA, ARC, and Kentucky State Coal Severance Grants.

After the Earth Day festivities State Director Kenneth Slone planted a tree commemorating the future growth of the community.

LOUISIANA

Town of Rayville

Metro Press Clipping Bureau
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The Richland Beacon News

Rayville, LA

Weekly (Thur)
Circ. 2,400

April 26, 2007

Federal funding given in parish

Richland Parish celebrated Earth Day by receiving almost \$4 million in grants and loans for improvements to water systems.

Congressman Rodney Alexander joined Louisiana director for USDA Rural Development Clyde Holloway and USDA Rural Development deputy assistant administrator James Maras in announcing the funding during an Earth Day program at Rayville High School.

The Town of Rayville received two loans and a grant during the visit and the Town of Mangham received a loan and a grant.

Rayville received a \$378,000 loan for Phase II of an upgrade to the town's sewer system as well as a \$1,190,000 loan and a \$925,800 grant for Phase II of the upgrade of the town's water system.

Mangham received a \$517,000 loan and a \$983,000 grant for repairs and improvements to its

water system.

Three more loans totaling around \$10 million were also given to other agencies throughout the state as part of the program.

Earth Day is recognized each year to promote awareness of environmental issues. During Monday's program, Rayville junior high and high school students learned the importance of clean water, resource conservation and a clean community during presentations by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency and Keep Louisiana Beautiful.

"USDA Rural Development recognizes Earth Day by announcing funding for projects that will help our rural communities be good stewards of the environment," Holloway said. "This year, we are announcing funding to improve water and wastewater systems, enhance conservation and utilize renewable energy."

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The News-Star
Monroe, LA

Daily & Sunday
(Dly 39,500; Sun 47,000)

April 24, 2007

Waste turns into fuel source

By Robbie Evans
revans@thenewsstar.com

RAYVILLE — Bayou Wood Products of West Monroe received praise from state and federal officials Monday for a plan to turn wood waste into an alternative fuel source.

The company, along with the towns of Rayville and Mangham, was recognized during an announcement that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had awarded nearly \$14 million in grants and loans for rural development. Bayou Wood Products will receive a \$4.9 million loan to build a facility that would turn waste wood products into wood pellets for use in fireplaces and stoves.

The announcement was made during an Earth Day program at Rayville High School.

"This is taking waste going to a landfill and turning waste into energy," said Clyde Holloway, state director for the USDA's Rural Development program. "That's what it's all about."

Bayou Wood Products owner Steve Tippen said the company has been in the commercial wood milling business for nearly 65 years. The USDA loan will allow the company to expand its operations by taking wood scraps and turning them into pellets, a product that is in high demand.

"We'll be able to add about 15 jobs," Tippen said. "We should be complete with the project in about 12 months."

The company also received praise from state representatives Mike Walsworth, R-West Monroe, and Francis Thompson,

D-Delhi, as well as U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman.

Rayville was awarded two grants for infrastructure improvements. The first, for \$2.1 million, will be used to upgrade its water system.

The other grant for \$378,000 will be used for a sewer rehabilitation project. That funding completes some \$6 million in federal funding for Rayville's water and sewer systems.

The village of Mangham also received \$1.5 million to build a new 150,000-gallon elevated water storage tank and 350-gallon water well.

The city of Bogalusa in Washington Parish was awarded \$3.5 million and the town of New Llano in Vernon Parish was awarded \$2.2 million for infrastructure projects.

MARYLAND

Harford County Government

HARFORD COUNTY RECEIVES USDA GRANT FOR GLEN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY

Harford County's Department of Public Works, working with the Harford County Health Department and the Maryland Department of the Environment, has secured a substantial federal grant to help extend public water to the rural community of Glen Heights.

Officials and residents recently gathered at Swan Harbor Farm where Harford County Executive David Craig was presented a check for \$1.2 million in USDA Rural Development Funds by Marlene Elliott, USDA Rural Development State Director. "Protecting the health of our citizens is a vital part of what government at all levels must strive for," said Mr. Craig. "I am very proud of the efforts of our Water and Sewer Division and the Harford County Health Department for their hard work in securing this funding."

In August, 2005, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) detected that the groundwater source that serves the wells of the Glen Heights community contained traces of Trichloroethylene and Tetrachlorethylene, a product used to remove grease from prefabricated metal parts. MDE has concluded that the contamination resulted from the improper handling of hazardous materials, but the source of the contamination is unknown. As a result, some residents of the community are currently using carbon filtration systems and bottled water as a short term solution.

Tom Hilton, Chief Engineer for the Division of Water and Sewer said the project to extend water to the community would be underway soon. Upon completion, approximately 80 homes will have access to safe public drinking water.



Caption: At the County's Swan Harbor Farm, \$1.2 million was announced to help bring public water to the Glenn Heights community. Pictured left to right: Representing the Harford County Council, Richard Slutzky for District E and Mary Ann Lisanti for District F; Marlene Elliott, USDA Rural Development State Director; Millie Zwiebelman, Glenn Heights resident; David Craig, Harford County Executive; and Heather Campbell, representing Senator Benjamin Cardin.

USDA Supports Water System for Glenn Heights Community

Havre de Grace, MD April 25, 2007 – In recognition of Earth Day, officially observed around the globe on April 22nd, Maryland officials gathered at the County's Swan Harbor Farm on Oakington Road to announce \$1.2 million in USDA Rural Development funds to help with the extension of public water to the Glenn Heights community. "For local officials, no problem can be more complicated and costly than to provide residents with access to safe drinking water," said Marlene Elliott, USDA Rural Development State Director. "It is what we are called to do at Rural Development, to work closely with local governments and rural communities to help them overcome their challenges and to give them a means to improve the quality of life for their residents."

In August 2005, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) discovered that the groundwater source serving the approximately 80 households in the Glenn Heights community was contaminated with Trichloroethylene (TCE) that is found in aerosol dry-cleaning products, and Tetrachlorethylene (PCE) that is found in products used to remove grease from fabricated metal parts. MDE has concluded that the contamination is the result of improper handling of hazardous material, but the source of the contamination is unknown. Homeowners in the area have private wells and are using temporary carbon filtration systems and supplementing drinking water with bottled water.

The Harford County Government has estimated that the extension of public water to the Glenn Heights community will cost approximately \$2.2 million dollars. USDA Rural Development is providing 55% of the financing needed in the form of a low interest loan in the amount of \$454,000 at 4-1/8% for 40 years and a grant in the amount of \$746,000. MDE is expected to provide funding for the remainder of the project. "I am very pleased that the Rural Development program is able to provide this substantial monetary support to such a vital project that will protect the health of these Harford County households," said David R. Craig, Harford County Executive. "I applaud the efforts of Harford County's Water and Sewer Division, Harford County Health Department, and the USDA Rural Development staff members for quickly getting this application request approved and awarded."

Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at the State Office by calling (302) 857-3580 or by visiting their website at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

MICHIGAN

Saginaw County Village of Oakley
Bloomingdale Area Utilities Authority

Contact: Alec Lloyd (517) 324-5204

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT MARKS EARTH DAY WITH BLOOMINGDALE CEREMONY

EAST LANSING, April 12, 2007 – USDA Rural Development Director for Michigan Gene DeRossett will present a ceremonial loan and grant check for \$6.4 million to Bloomingdale Area Utilities Authority Chairman Tom Rock and host an Earth Day tree planting on Friday, April 20, at 10 a.m. at Haven Park, 100 N. Van Buren St. in Bloomingdale.

DeRossett will be joined by Bloomingdale Village President Sam Ewbank, Cheshire Township Supervisor Troy Tucker and Bloomingdale Township Supervisor Bob Richardson at the event, which commemorates the announcement of a new sewer project to improve local water quality.

The event is open to the general public and everyone is welcome to attend.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity, liquidity, and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>

USDA CEREMONY CELEBRATES EARTH DAY IN BLOOMINGDALE

EAST LANSING, April 20, 2007 – USDA Rural Development Director for Michigan Gene DeRossett today presented a ceremonial loan and grant check for \$6.4 million to Bloomingdale Area Utilities Authority Chairman Tom Rock and joined local officials in an Earth Day tree planting at Haven Park, in Bloomingdale.

“Earth Day is about helping the environment and leaving a better world for future generations to enjoy,” said DeRossett. “This new sewer system will protect local water for decades to come. Like the tree we planted today, it is an investment in the future.”

Other participants included Bloomingdale Village President George Ewbank, Cheshire Township Supervisor Troy Tooker, Bloomingdale Township Supervisor David Bly and state Rep. Tonya Schuitmaker.

The project merges sewer lines from the Village of Bloomingdale with those of Cheshire and Bloomingdale townships into a Bloomingdale Area Utilities Authority. Currently, the village is in violation of state Department of Environmental Quality discharge standards. The townships are also causing environmental damage because of failing individual septic systems.

The money will pay for 25,000 feet of gravity collection sewer with six lift stations and six smaller grinder stations to serve the two townships. It will also cover the construction of a new oxidation ditch mechanical treatment plant with surface water discharge to the Great Bear Lake outlet. The existing village lagoon treatment facility will be decommissioned.

The new system will bring the village back into compliance with MDEQ discharge requirements, eliminate health and sanitary hazards, and will serve 437 rural households and businesses.

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MISSOURI

Scott County PWSD No. 4
Henry County PWSD No. 4
City of Polo

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS \$2,749,700 EARTH DAY FUNDS TO FIVE COMMUNITIES IN NORTHEAST MISSOURI

On April 24th, 2007, five communities in Northeast Missouri were recognized for their contributions in providing environmentally sound infrastructure in their respective communities. During this recognition ceremony, Tim Freeman, representative for Congressman Kenny Hulshof and Naomi Boss, representative for Congressman Sam Graves, presented a \$2,749,700 mock check to these communities. This represents the amount of funding that USDA Rural Development has awarded to these communities in 2007 for the purpose of building these types of facilities.

USDA Rural Development joins in this Earth Day celebration of protecting and improving the environment, especially with regard to improving the quality of life and rural economic development. One of the ways that we are able to do this is by partnering with your local entities to provide and improve access to clean, safe drinking water and decent, safe, and sanitary wastewater collection and treatment systems. Earth Day is Every Day for Everybody!

USDA Rural Development has been honored to work with the following entities to bring funding to their rural areas for such improvements. We appreciate their hard work and dedication, as well as their participation in continuing education opportunities to learn more about the environment.

- City of Wellsville for Water - \$739,600
- Howard Co. PWSD #1 for Water - \$1,300,000
- Clark Co. PWSD #1 on behalf of City of Wyaconda for Water - \$148,000
- City of Bunceton for Water - \$555,000
- City of Lancaster for a Pre-Development Planning Grant for Water - \$7,100

In addition, to being recognized for this 2007 Earth Day Honor, your local representatives also attended an Owners Workshop for Water and Wastewater Owners/Operators in Moberly, MO. They spent the day increasing their knowledge base with educators from Midwest Assistance Program, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Rural Water Association, and USDA Rural Development.

USDA Rural Development appreciates the time, effort, and support put forth by all those involved with infrastructure and the environment, and extends special thanks to our Federal elected officials for making available Federal monies for funding these Water and Wastewater Programs.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in home ownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on any rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office, by calling 660-665-3274 extension 4 or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/>.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$5,110,000 TO SCOTT COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

In conjunction with the national celebration of Earth Day, Greg Branum, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Missouri, presented Scott County Public Water Supply District No. 4 with a mock check in the amount of \$5,110,000 representing the funding provided by Rural Development to construct a complete water distribution system in the southern part of Scott County.

"Water infrastructure in rural areas is essential to our communities and the quality of life of the Americans who live in them. Two public schools and 600 households will benefit from this investment in Scott County's Public Water Supply District. I appreciate the fact that Rural Development has identified a substantial opportunity to invest in our Southern Missouri communities, and I am thankful for the support of USDA Rural Development from my colleagues in the Missouri delegation in Congress," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

"This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe water distribution system," said Mr. Branum. "I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that the cities, schools and many rural households will benefit from a dependable water system."



Pictured: Joel Evans, Phil Lyon, Phyllis Minner, Rural Development, Chris Grojean, John Chittenden, Hope Kilburn, Dennis Meier, Martin Priggel, Greg Branum, Rural Development State Director, & Pam Anglin, Area Director

The new water district encompasses roughly the entire county of Scott, with the project being completed in phases. The first phase will be in the southern half of the county and will consist of construction of water distribution lines and an interconnection with the City of Sikeston. The District will purchase water from the City of Sikeston at a rate which makes it more economically feasible than producing its own water.

The District presently has 598 signed residential user agreements for Phase I, plus Kelly Public Schools and Scott County Central School. The two school districts currently operate their own wells and treatment systems for their facilities. With the new system, the school districts will be able to provide safe drinking water daily to more than 1500 children. Furthermore, through interconnection with the communities of the county, the district will be able to sell, buy, and provide water in emergency situations, increasing the county's homeland security capacity. Upon completion of all phases, the new water district will assure potable water for approximately 10,800 rural residents.

Additionally, areas of the county that may not have been viable for new residential or commercial development because of lack of utilities will now be candidates for county growth. Development spreading south from Cape Girardeau and north from Sikeston will be enhanced, improving opportunity and quality of life for all.

Branum added, "Great appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. Economic development, the creation of jobs and funding essential services mirror the Agency's mission and President Bush's initiative of increasing economic opportunity in rural communities and improving the quality of life of rural residents."

Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by visiting the USDA's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/ or contact Kathy A. Cagle, Rural Development Manager at 573-624-5939, extension 4.

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Contact

Kelly Gregory

660-885-5567 Ext. #5

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$552,000 TO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT #4 OF HENRY COUNTY

The Public Water Supply District #4 of Henry County, Missouri, received a \$552,000 Mock Check from USDA Rural Development on Thursday, April 26, 2007, during a ceremony at the Water District Office. The funds will be used to construct a 200,000 gallon elevated storage tank and install a new generator for the existing pump station. The funding announcement was part of many Earth Day events held across Missouri. Earth Day is being celebrated across the Nation to acknowledge and unite

the communities, organizations, and the U.S. Government for their accomplishments in providing environmentally safe living conditions to rural residents.



Left to :Kurt Compton, Operator; Bob Hagedorn, Ike Skelton's Office; Olive K. Wells, Urich City Council; Joyce Crump, Office Manager; Kelly Gregory, RD Area Director; Carolyn Kelsay, Board President; Barbara Puckett, Urich City Council; Robert Gibson, Board Member; Gene Hunt, Board Member; Linda Cyrus, Midwest Assistance Program; R.D. Colvin, Urich City Council; John Oelklaus, Larkin Group; Fern Kelsay, Part-time employee; Mel Stewart, Mayor of Urich; Greg Brannum, RD State Director; Jeff Heidrich, Larkin Group; Bill Kelsay; Jack Conner.

The water district presently provides water to 382 rural residential users and the cities of Urich and Blairstown, Missouri. The District was formed in the early 1990s and consists of 133 miles of water line, a pump station house which has booster pumps, three meter vaults and a 100,000 gallon standpipe. Due to residential growth in the District's service area there continues to be more demands on the system. When this project is complete the Water District will be able to provide a more dependable, safe, and potable water throughout this rural area at reasonable rates for its customers.

"It is great to be a partner in a project that will enable the Public Water District #4 to better serve the people of Henry County. The local leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality," said Senator Kit Bond.

"I believe continued investment in Missouri's rural communities is a vital part of our state's economic future. This project will update critical infrastructure important to those living in Ulrich and Blairstown and parts of Henry County, and ensure that residents have access to a clean, reliable water supply," said Senator Claire McCaskill.

U. S. Congressman Ike Skelton said, "I am pleased that USDA has awarded Henry County, Missouri, with critical financial backing for the expansion of its water system. Through the years, I have seen firsthand how our national investment in rural development has yielded positive results for Missouri. In the days ahead, we must redouble our efforts on behalf of rural America, ensuring small town leaders have access to the capital they need."

"Access to a safe and dependable water facility is a fundamental necessity to each of us," said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. "Rural Development is committed to working with Water Districts like Public Water Supply District #4 of Henry County to provide essential services to rural Missouri. I want to commend the Water District for making this project a reality. The project mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Tony O'Malley, Larkin Group, Consulting Engineers of Kansas City designed the water project and will be providing construction oversight as the Project Engineer. It is anticipated that the project will seek construction bids within the next three months.

Branum added, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services to the residents of Public Water Supply District #4 of Henry County."

Anyone seeking more information about the water and wastewater programs or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Clinton Area Office at 1306 North 2nd Street, Clinton, MO 64735 or by calling (660) 885-5567- ext 5.

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Contact: Barbara Ross, Area Specialist – 816 364 3767 extension 129

**“EARTHDAY CELEBRATION”
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$600,000 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
TO THE CITY OF POLO**

In recognition of the 37th anniversary of the first observance of Earth Day, Rural Development announces the funding of a significant water improvement project to improve the delivery of a clean, safe, sufficient source of water to the residents of the City of Polo. Gregory C. Branum, Missouri USDA Rural Development State Director, presented the City of Polo with a mock check for \$600,000, representing a loan to improve the city's water distribution system. Many people including the city employees, the city council, the engineers and the consultants worked together with Rural Development to provide dependable, safe water to many individuals, families and businesses in Polo.



Participants, from back left, include: Denise Stottlemire, consultant; Barbara Ross, USDA Rural Development; William Cook, Mayor, Council Members Melissa Poje and Julie Phillips; Dean Brookshier, Representative of Congressman Sam Graves; and Neal Miller, Area Director of USDA Rural Development. The front row is the third grade class of Polo Elementary School, who participated in Earth Day education and a poster contest.

This project funds will finance construction of a 75,000 gallon water storage facility to equalize pressure and provide dependable, safe drinking water to the 599 residents of the city of Polo.

Senator Bond's expressed support of this project: "It is great to be a partner in a project that will allow for a dependable, safe drinking water supply for the residents of Polo. The local leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality."

"I am proud to have supported this project to improve water services for the residents of the City of Polo", said Congressman Sam Graves. "I am thankful for the excellent working relationship I have with the USDA Rural Development team, and look forward to our continued work in the future."

"This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe waste disposal system," said Branum. "This project mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable waste disposal system. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for these kinds of rural projects.

Area Director Neal Miller also commended the city for their dedication to improving the quality of life for Polo residents. "The residents of Polo are fortunate to have leadership who aggressively seek to improve the public facilities within their town."

Anyone seeking additional information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the Rural Development home page at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Barbara Ross or Stan Wolfe, Rural Development Area Specialists, at 3915 Oakland Avenue, Saint Joseph, Missouri 64506 at 816 364 3767 extension 5. Inquiries or information requests may also be e-mailed to barbara.ross@mo.usda.gov or stan.wolfe@mo.usda.gov.

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NEBRASKA

Village of Thurston
Village of Elba

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ELBA CELEBRATE FUNDING OF \$1.3 MILLION FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Elba, Neb., April 20, 2007 — USDA Rural Development and the residents of Elba celebrated in honor of Earth Day, the funding of over \$1.3 million for water improvements that will ensure a dependable supply of safe drinking water to the 243 residents of the village.

“Today is a time to reflect on our earth’s precious natural resources and the preservation of them for future generations,” stated Scot Blehm, state director for USDA Rural Development in Nebraska. “Rural Development is pleased to assist Elba with their water system improvements that will bring quality water to their community and also assist them with water conservation.”

USDA Rural Development presented a ceremonial check to the Village of Elba for a \$702,000 loan and \$345,000 grant provided via the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program. A Community Development Block Grant of \$250,000 and village contribution of \$20,000 complete the funding needed.

“The Village of Elba is very grateful for the financial assistance from all the agencies that are helping us to complete and update our current water system so that all the local village residents can have safe and clean drinking water,” said Chris Pedersen, chairman for the Village of Elba.

“It gives me great pride and accomplishment to help Elba get to this point with their water system,” stated Glen Gatz, community program specialist for USDA Rural Development. “They have been working long and hard on this project and it is finally becoming a reality for them.”

Elba has struggled with multiple water issues. Presently, the village is functioning with one working well and is dealing with nitrates in its existing water source. The distribution system is the original thus pipes are outdated, leaking and causing high water consumption. Funding will renovate the present system through location of a new water source, development of a well, construction of a water tower, replacement of the entire distribution system, installation of two miles of main to bring the water to town, and installation of meters.

Contact Glen Gatz, (308) 237-3118, (402) 437-5093 (TTY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THURSTON CELEBRATE EARTH DAY FUNDING FOR SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Thurston, Neb., April 23, 2007 — USDA Rural Development and the residents of Thurston celebrated in honor of Earth Day, the funding of \$575,000 for wastewater improvements needed to comply with mandated federal operating requirements and to provide the capacity to meet the needs of the community's 125 rural residents.

"It is a pleasure to assist Thurston with their wastewater needs," stated Scot Blehm, state director for USDA Rural Development in Nebraska. "Wastewater issues are critical to the health and safety of rural populations. Earth Day is about appreciating and preserving our natural resources and today's funding to Thurston will help protect our environment for future generations."

USDA Rural Development presented a ceremonial check to the Village of Thurston for a \$322,000 loan and \$253,000 grant via the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program.

Thurston's current waste treatment system is comprised of both a sewage collection and two-cell lagoon system originally designed as a complete retention lagoon system. Village wastewater is collected by gravity flow to a manhole and then on to the lagoons. The water level is approximately one foot over what maximum water surface should be causing back up into the lagoon manhole and pipe, and discharging. Currently, the Village is operating the wastewater treatment facility under an Order of Compliance.

USDA Rural Development dollars will construct a controlled discharge lagoon system to include a lift station. The existing lagoon cells will be reworked to provide a higher maximum water level to achieve the required capacity. Erosion control, including seed and rip-rap, will be provided. Piping will be adjusted so that discharge can happen from any cell, and that cells can be isolated, and influent flow can be diverted to any cell. Project improvements will bring the village's wastewater system be back into compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

Contact Jolene Kasper, (402) 371-5350, (402) 437-5093 (TTY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

North Conway Water Project



Curtis Anderson, deputy administrator of the utilities program for U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, talks about the federal agency's investment of more than \$16 million in the North Conway Water Precinct while precinct consultant Bill Hounsell listens at a celebration yesterday at the precinct offices. Roughly 40 dignitaries turned out for the event. (JAMIE GEMMITT PHOTOS)



At left, Jolinda LaClair, state director of U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (second from right), passes a ceremonial check to North Conway Water Precinct commissioners Mary Gaudette and Jim Umberger. Flanking them are consultant Bill Hounsell (left) and Curtis Anderson, deputy administrator of the utilities program for Rural Development. The check for \$3,950,000, is an acknowledgment of a loan/grant combination awarded to the precinct for upgraded sewer service along Intervale Crossroad, Kearsarge Road, Dinsmore Road and Mechanic Street.

Precinct revels in funding at Earth Day celebration

With \$19 million down and \$80 million to go, partners praise efforts to improve basic services

By DAVID CARKHUFF
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

CONWAY — Fresh off of an eight-day trip to Central America, Jolinda LaClair found the lessons

of Earth Day even more poignant at the North Conway Water Precinct on Monday.

Her eight-day trip to Belize see **PRECINCT** page 10



Jolinda LaClair, state director of U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, talks about the federal agency's investment of more than \$16 million in the North Conway Water Precinct.



Reigning champion Dave Lamb is the first "Tuckerman" to power up the last leg of the grueling Tuckerman Inferno pentathlon Saturday, beating even most of the competing teams up to the ravine. Despite yesterday's 84-degree weather, snowpack is hanging on at the higher elevations, including Tuckerman's and Bear Notch Ski Touring Center. (JAMIE GEMMITT PHOTO)

A last fling with winter

Wildcat ski area extends season, Bear Notch remains a popular destination

By DAVID CARKHUFF
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

Done with snow? Believe it or not, some aren't. They're not ready to hang up the skis. Wildcat ski area announced plans to extend

see **SNOW** page 13

Psychiatric care may shift south to Conway area

Northern Human Services proposes localized mental health services in wake of closure of Berlin's center

By DENA LIBNER
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

CONWAY — New psychiatric facilities, including a three-bed apartment complex for inpatients, may be established in Conway to compensate for the looming closure in June of Berlin's Androscoggin Valley Hospital Riverside 2 secure psychiatric unit.

see **CARE** page 8

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PENNSYLVANIA

Four Seasons
Pine Grove
Penn Township

Contact: Rosemarie Massa
717-237-2269

USDA Rural Development and Village of Four Seasons Celebrate Earth Day 2007

Union Dale, PA – April 23, 2007 –USDA Rural Development’s Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs Gary Morgan and State Director Gary H. Groves, Congressman Christopher Carney and Village of Four Seasons’ authority members and others gathered to celebrate Earth Day 2007 by highlighting in a ceremonial check presentation ceremony Rural Development’s \$1,158,000 loan to the Village of Four Seasons for its waste disposal project.

"The USDA Rural Development agency’s financial assistance to the Village of Four Seasons sewer project will enable this vibrant community to celebrate Earth Day every day of the year. Protecting our water resources is not only good for the environment, it is critical to guarding human health and improving our economy. This project is a prime example of how government can work in partnership with local communities for a better quality of life," said Congressman Christopher P. Carney.

“Highlighting Rural Development’s funding of the Village of Four Seasons’ sewer project, on the 37th anniversary of Earth Day, provides a fine example of Rural Development’s commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment for our rural residents”, said Gary H. Groves, USDA Rural Development State Director.

The \$1,158,000 Rural Development loan funds will be used to upgrade the existing pump station and replace the existing sewer treatment plant with a new 60,000 gallons per day facility for the Village of Four Seasons located in Herrick Township, Susquehanna County. The upgrades will help alleviate unsanitary conditions as well as increase the capacity of the plant. The system will serve 134 equivalent dwelling users.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal agency for rural development needs by offering financial and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and communities. USDA Rural Development programs include funding for day care centers, fire trucks and other community facility projects; the purchase, construction or repair of homes; loans and guarantees to rural businesses to save or create jobs; and loans and grants for water and sewer utility projects. For more information on programs offered by USDA Rural Development, contact the Pennsylvania State Office at (717) 237-2299 or visit its website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa.



Contact: Rosemarie Massa
717-237-2269

**USDA Rural Development and Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority
Celebrate Earth Day 2007**

Pine Grove, PA – April 23, 2007 –USDA Rural Development’s Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs Gary Morgan and State Director Gary H. Groves, Congressman Tim Holden and Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority members and others gathered to celebrate Earth Day 2007 with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Authority’s new wastewater system funded by Rural Development grants and loans totaling over \$12.4 million.

"This wastewater disposal facility will allow for improved and expanded services to new commercial and residential customers. Earth Day is a time to renew our commitments towards sustaining our earth, and this wastewater system is a good start," said Congressman Tim Holden.

“Highlighting the completion of the Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority’s wastewater project and Rural Development’s funding of \$12.4 million on the 37th anniversary of Earth Day provides a fine example of Rural Development’s commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment for our rural residents”, said Gary H. Groves, USDA Rural Development State Director.

To address an overload problem, physical limitations, aged facility, high operation and maintenance costs, and other problems, the Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority set out to construct a new efficient 1.5 million gallons a day wastewater treatment plant, pump station, and force main. The new system will serve all existing township and borough equivalent dwelling units and allow for additional commercial and residential units located near the interchange. Rural Development assisted the project by awarding \$9,528,900 in loans and \$2,896,800 in grants towards the \$12,633,700 project.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal agency for rural development needs by offering financial and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and communities. USDA Rural Development programs include funding for day care centers, fire trucks and other community facility projects; the purchase, construction or repair of homes; loans and guarantees to rural businesses to save or create jobs; and loans and grants for water and sewer utility projects. For more information on programs offered by USDA Rural Development, contact the Pennsylvania State Office at (717) 237-2299 or visit its website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa.

Pine Grove sewer gets \$12 million

BY SHAWN HESSINGER
For The Citizen-Standard
shawnh@citizen-standard.com

A joint sewer authority serving three municipalities received \$12,425,700 in federal loans and grants Monday for completion of a new treatment plant and 27 miles of piping.

Standing in front of a large sludge press in the new Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority plant on Suedberg Road, U.S. Rep. T. Timothy Holden, D-17, said the improvements will not only help the environment but also encourage business expansion.

"I just bragged about this project," said Holden, referring to a comment he had made an hour before at a legislative luncheon in Pottsville.

Gary Morgan, deputy administrator of the Rural Utilities Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provided the funding, said at a press

conference within the plant that the improvements translate to value for municipalities.

Morgan said USDA data showed that for every \$1 of federal investment in similar projects, a community could expect \$15 in private investment, \$2 in additional public funds and \$14 in local property tax base, \$168 million in added property revenues in this case.

Holden serves as vice chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, which will craft a farm bill establishing policy for USDA spending over the next five years.

John Stahl, chairman of the Pine Grove authority which owns the plant, said efforts to improve the system that serves Pine Grove borough and township and Washington Township began in 2002.

A separate \$2.26 million project addressed inflow and infiltration in the existing sewage collection

system to separate out groundwater and runoff.

After its completion in September 2003, Stahl said, work immediately began on the second phase of the project, construction of a new sewage treatment plant for the system.

Despite the added indebtedness, Stahl said the authority has remained conservative and projects keeping rates at \$125 per customer per quarter at least through 2014.

"We do thank you for the program and I think we have tangible proof of what can be accomplished," Stahl told Holden and USDA officials.

A fact sheet passed out by USDA officials lists other funding programs including a housing program helping to provide newer improved homes for 60,000 moderate- to low-income families per year.

A rural utilities program helps rural communities with a variety of grants for



John Stahl, chairman of the Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority, spoke to the crowd at the grand opening of the sewage treatment plant Monday, April 23.

Continued on Page 2

★ PG Sewer

Continued from Page 1

electricity, telecommunications, water and waste disposal projects like the Pine Grove effort.

A rural development business program helps fund projects that create or preserve quality jobs or create a clean rural environment.

At a legislative luncheon earlier on Monday, Holden touted another kind of funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture that he believes could ben-

efit the region. Holden hopes additional funding for a new federal farm bill also providing funding through the department's rural development program will be allocated for research into use of such local resources as switch grass, soy beans, animal fat, wood chips and other materials for use as ethanol and other biofuels.

Holden and others hope the funding will provide not only a boom for the local economy but a decrease

in dependents on foreign energy sources, particularly oil.

Contact: Rosemarie Massa
717-237-2269

USDA Rural Development and Local Municipal Officials Celebrate Earth Day 2007

Hesston, PA – April 23, 2007 – USDA Rural Development’s State Director Gary H. Groves, Penn Township, Walker Township, Huntingdon Borough, and Huntingdon County officials, and others gathered to celebrate Earth Day 2007 with a ceremonial check presentation highlighting Rural Development’s \$772,000 grant to Penn Township for the intermunicipal sewer project.

“Highlighting Rural Development’s funding of this intermunicipal sewer project, on the 37th anniversary of Earth Day, provides a fine example of Rural Development’s commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment for our rural residents”, said Gary H. Groves, USDA Rural Development State Director.

The project will solve a problem with Penn Township’s sand mound sewer system located in Hesston, where malfunctioning sand filters were no longer properly serving 56 equivalent dwelling units. The only long-term solution, after careful review that considered all options, was to construct a gravity conveyance line to the Walker Township Municipal Authority collection system that would then convey wastewater to the Huntingdon Borough Treatment plant for final treatment and disposal. USDA Rural Development grant funds will help fund the needed corrections. Huntingdon County Planning coordinated the intermunicipal effort and has applied for a Community Development Block Grant for the project.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal agency for rural development needs by offering financial and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and communities. USDA Rural Development programs include funding for day care centers, fire trucks and other community facility projects; the purchase, construction or repair of homes; loans and guarantees to rural businesses to save or create jobs; and loans and grants for water and sewer utility projects. For more information on programs offered by USDA Rural Development, contact the Pennsylvania State Office at (717) 237-2299 or visit its website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa.

Penn Twp. awarded \$772K for sewer expansion project

203TG

FRONT PAGE

USDA grant to cover roughly 75 percent of construction cost

By ROB CAROLUS
Daily News Staff Writer

Just when it was beginning to seem like Penn Township was a "one-issue" municipality, news concerning the award of a large grant served to remind residents that "dust control" is just one of several issues being

addressed. "We received word from the United States Department of Agriculture that we've been granted \$772,000 to help finance the sewer extension project to Walker Township," Daniel Crotsley, Penn Township board chairman, reported at Tuesday night's regular monthly meeting. "We're working on a few other grants to supplement the SDA grant, so we're making a lot of progress."

"If everything else comes together, we'll be able to finance this project 100 percent with grants."

For years, the supervisors have been struggling with what to do about the crippled sewer system that currently serves 56 Penn Township customers in the Hesston

area. The system's sand filters have been malfunctioning for some time now and all the while, the township has been pumping a great deal of money into the sewer fund from the general fund just to keep things churning.

Last April, Penn Township, after months and months of negotiations, reached agreement with Walker Township to establish a connection to Walker's sewer mainline. This hook up, when completed, will carry sewage waste from the Hesston area to the Huntingdon Borough Authority treatment center.

Early estimates suggest that the entire expansion project could cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1.1 million.

This is the second inter-municipal agreement of its kind in recent history in Huntingdon County. Last year, Hopewell Township and Liberty Township came to terms on a similar plan that allows Hopewell to pass through Liberty to reach the Saxton treatment plant.

"This grant, facilitated through Rural Utility Services, will cover close to 75 per-



"If everything else comes together, we'll be able to finance this project 100 percent with grants."

**Penn Township
Supervisor Daniel Crotsley**

cent of the project cost," Penn Township Supervisor David Eriksen said. "We have been busy pursuing other funding options to cover the rest."

"We're hoping to get approval for a competitive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that could get us the rest of

See Sewer
Page A11

Sewer

From Page A1

the way there, so long as the cost of materials needed for the project hasn't risen too much."

Maureen Safko, grants administrator for Huntingdon County, told *The Daily News* this morning that the USDA grant is the news they've been waiting for. Safko has worked very closely with Penn Township on the effort to secure funding for the sewer system upgrade since the problem came to light.

"RUS has been very committed to this project," Safko said in a telephone interview. "The news of this grant couldn't have come at a better time."

"We're still trying to secure \$475,000 in competitive CDBG funding to cover the rest of the project cost. We applied for this grant last year but were passed up — Department of Community and Economic Development's priorities have a lot to do with communities with economic hardships. They also focus on projects that center around health and safety issues, such as correcting water contamination problems."

"We've resubmitted the application for consideration in 2007 and we're hopeful that we'll have better luck this time around. We'll have to wait and see what competition there is."

The township board should find out by September at the latest whether the competitive grant through DCED is approved.

To date, aside from the large USDA grant, Penn Township has also been awarded \$50,000 through the county's CDBG funding program. This money, which will be released in 2009, must be used specifically to address infiltration issues within the existing system. The board has also applied for a \$50,000 Growing Greener II grant, which would also be used to correct infiltration problems should the grant be awarded.

The Growing Greener II grants are to be awarded in May.

The \$772,000 in USDA funding will be available to the township through 2012, which means even if the supplemental CDBG funding is not approved for 2007 allocation, there will be four more chances to nail it down. Safko said they'll remain optimistic.

"We're hoping things come together this year so this important project can move forward," she said.

Penn Township needs to secure as many grants as possible for the project, due to the fact that several hundred thousand dollars is still owed on the township's failed in-ground sewage treatment system. The supervisors do not want to add any additional debt service to its existing customers' burden, considering the fact that \$28 of each customers' monthly bill now goes strictly toward debt service on the impaired system.

This will be the case for the next 28 years.

According to the terms of the Penn/Walker connection agreement, the Walker Authority will charge Penn Township a monthly "maintenance and operational" fee equal to four percent of Walker's actual maintenance expenses, including future debt service for necessary capital projects to any part of the Walker mainline used by Penn Township. The authority has also implemented a penalty structure where fees would be charged when maximum flows from Penn Township exceed those allowed in the agreement.

The agreement provides for a 14,000-gallons-per-day flow allowance. A ceiling of 70 total customers has been set, which means Penn may add a total of 14 more customers after the line is installed.

Prior to tapping on, Penn Township has agreed to pay an upfront fee of \$127,750, much of which will be used for the refurbishment of the Walker mainline.

PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico Aqueduct & Sewer Authority

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Miguel A. Ramírez
Phone: (787) 859-3104 ext. 118
E-mail: miguel.ramirez@pr.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GIVES \$7, 000,000.00 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTABLE WATER SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SALINAS

Salinas, Puerto Rico, April 19, 2007 – Agriculture Secretary, Mike Johanns announced that during the celebration of Planet Earth Day his Agency will celebrate a series of activities related to the preservation and conservation of our environmental resources.

José Otero-García, USDA Rural Development State Director for Puerto Rico, selected the special community Salinas-Aguirre-Montesoria to hold the activity of Planet Earth Day in Puerto Rico.

The communities of Aguirre and Montesoria are located in the municipality of Salinas, in the south coast of the island. These communities receive water through a system of private wells managed by the Lands Authority of Puerto Rico.

Otero-García, informed that 650 families of these communities are actually receiving potable water from an unsuitable system that does not comply with the regulations of the Health Department and Safe Drinkable Water Act. The quality of the water for human consumption is deficient, the pipes are covered with asbestos and most of them are broken and filtrating.

For this reason Rural Development has given to the AAA a loan of \$4,800,000.00 and a grant of \$2, 200,000.00 for the construction of this water project. As a fulfillment of the celebration of the Planet Earth Day, today a ground breaking ceremony will be held in the facilities near the old Central Aguirre post office at 10:30 AM.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76.8 billions since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Over 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments.

Additional information on Rural Programs can be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> or by calling Mr. Ramón Meléndez at (787) 766-5095 ext. 250 or Mr. Miguel A. Ramírez at (787) 859-3104 ext. 118. USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.

Popular Inc. releases lackluster 1Q report

By The STAR Staff

First quarter profit for Popular Inc., parent company of Banco Popular, remained steady in comparison with the same year-ago quarter, although capital gains were affected by one-time writedowns associated with mortgage loans and other securities.

Net income for Puerto Rico's largest bank rose to \$118.6 million, or 42 cents per share, from \$118.5 million, or 41 cents per share. Popular had more shares outstanding than a year earlier.

Net income for the first quarter of 2007 represented a return on assets, or ROA, of 1.02 percent and a return on common equity, ROE, of 12.91 percent, compared with 1.02 percent and 14 percent, respectively, in the same quarter of 2006.

The most significant events impacting the financial results for the quarter ended March 31 were a pre-tax capital gain of \$119 million on the sale of Popular Inc.'s shares of common stock of Telecomunicaciones de Puerto Rico, Inc. to Sercotel S.A. de C.V. — a subsidiary of América Móvil — last month; and, an unfavorable valuation adjustment of \$52.8 million in the fair value of interest-only securities originated by Popular Financial Holdings in off-balance sheet securitizations performed in



In what has been a difficult period for most banks, Popular Inc. is holding steady, like these customers at San Patricio Plaza in Guaynabo.

2005 and 2006. As of March 31, the aggregate balance of PFHs interest-only securities recognized in the Corporation's statement of financial condition was \$33 million.

Other events affecting the quarter were an unfavorable valuation adjustment of \$16.9

million in the value of mortgage loans held-for-sale related primarily to the lower cost or market analysis of Popular Inc.'s stateside subprime portfolio and restructuring costs of \$15.1 million associated with the restructuring and integration plan of PFH, which was

announced in January.

"There is a lot of noise in the quarterly numbers but the fundamental story remains the same," said Popular Inc. CEO Richard Carrión. "We continue to execute the restructuring plan we announced last quarter in our PFH operations and we are tracking close to that plan."

Net interest income reflected a reduction of \$4.8 million for the quarter ended March 31, when compared with the same quarter in 2006.

The decrease in the net interest spread was mainly the result of higher cost of interest bearing deposits due to growth in average time deposits, which is a higher-cost funding source, combined with the impact of higher costs in certain money market and savings accounts.

The provision for loan losses totaled \$96.3 million or 125 percent of net charge-offs for the quarter ended March 31, compared with \$48.9 million or 109 percent, respectively, for the same quarter in 2006, and \$108.3 million or 148 percent, respectively, for the quarter ended Dec. 31, 2006.

Non-interest income totaled \$252.2 million for the quarter ended March 31, an increase of \$23.3 million or 10 percent compared with the same quarter in 2006.

Federal Rural Development funds Salinas water project

BY MICHELLE KANTROW

VAZQUEZ

mkantrow@star.net

of The STAR Staff

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program recently awarded a combined \$7 million to the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority, to rebuild a suitable potable water system to serve several communities in Salinas.

The money is broken down into a \$4.8 million loan and a \$2.2 million grant, to improve the quality of life of residents in the Aguirre and Montessoria sectors of the southern coastal town.

Some 650 families live in those sec-

tors, and are currently "receiving potable water from an unsuitable system that does not comply with the regulations of the Health Department and the Safe Drinkable Water Act," said José Otero-García, USDA Rural Development State Director for Puerto Rico.

"The quality of the water for human consumption is deficient, the pipes are covered with asbestos and most of them are broken and filtering," he said.

The selected communities currently receive water through a system of private wells managed by the Puerto Rico Lands Authority.

According to its mission statement, USDA Rural Development is com-

mitted to the future of rural communities and to creating economic opportunities.

As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$76.8 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in home-ownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Over 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments, according to information provided by the agency.

The Salinas project broke ground last week, to mark this year's Earth Day celebrations.



Groundbreaking at the Salinas project, which will bring potable water to 650 families in the area.

Adobe launches designers' software dream kits

By The STAR Staff

Adobe Systems Inc. this week unveiled Creative Suite 3, a comprehensive suite of new software programs to provide graphic designers, professional and amateur photographers and members of the design industry a broad spectrum of creative options for all facets of print, web, mobile, interactive, film and video production.

The software giant, which purchased former rival Macromedia in December 2005, launched a line-up of 18 programs with six new configurations of Adobe Creative Suite 3. These include Adobe Creative Suite 3 Design Premium and Design Standard editions, Adobe Creative Suite 3 Web Premium and Web Standard editions, and Adobe Creative Suite 3 Production Premium.

Rounding out the product line is Adobe Creative Suite Master Collection which combines all of Adobe's new design and development applications in a single box — the most

comprehensive creative environment ever delivered.

The majority of Adobe Creative Suite 3 editions will be available as universal applications for both PowerPC and Intel-based Macs and support Microsoft Windows XP and Windows Vista operating systems.

"This is the most important launching for the company in its 25 year history," said Gustavo Brunser, senior business development manager for Latin America, during a meeting with members of the local media this week.

"This software line incorporates all of Adobe's advances, the purchase of Macromedia and the integration of both companies," he said. "Also, it responds to one of the greatest challenges the creative world is facing, which is change."

Another plus, he said, is the software's ability to bridge the gap between designers and developers.

Adobe Creative Suite 3 offers choice between editions and stand-alone products. Customers can choose from six new

suites or full version upgrades of 12 stand-alone applications, including Photoshop CS3, Photoshop CS3 Extended, InDesign CS3, Illustrator CS3, Flash CS3 Professional, Dreamweaver CS3, Adobe Premiere Pro CS3 and After Effects CS3.

All of the software programs are essentially designed to work seamlessly together, allowing users to create multimedia concepts without much stress, Brunser said.

"Today, everything centers around the concept of design. Consequently, products have to carry the idea of providing strategic design elements," he said. "Designers now have to think in multiple media, so now is when the concept of multimedia is being used correctly."

Adobe's new family of products is designed to work as an "ecosystem for creative professionals."

STAR reporter Michelle Kantrow Vázquez contributed to this story.

SOUTH CAROLINA

McCormick County

McCormick Messenger

True to Ourselves, Our Neighbors, Our Country and Our God

Thursday, May 10, 2007

USDA celebrates Earth Day by awarding nearly \$180 million for rural water systems

Agriculture Under Secretary Thomas C. Dorr celebrated the 37th anniversary of Earth Day by announcing USDA Rural Development funding of 61 new rural water and wastewater community systems in 29 states totaling nearly \$180 million.

"These projects will build and improve rural water and sewage systems, and rural communities will benefit through cleaner water, recreation and wildlife resources," Dorr said. "USDA is working with communities across America to provide investment financing and an improved quality of life for local residents."

Earth Day is observed annually on April 22 to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the environment. The USDA funding announced recently will help communities upgrade sewage systems to better manage storm runoff, expand and/or upgrade water treatment plants, extend water service to new residents and build a renewable energy generation facility.

For example, USDA Rural Development provided funding for sewer services to the Plum Branch area of McCormick County including the National Guard Training Facility at Lake Thurmond. The site's facilities are currently supported by septic systems and drain fields. The addition of a new central sanitary sewer system will replace these septic systems resulting in the complete removal of grey-water from the site, which will be processed by McCormick County. This is the most environmentally advantageous option available to the SCNG.

The South Carolina National Guard is pleased to see this project come to fruition. It provides significant benefits to the county, as well as the tremendous benefit of allowing for future expansion at the training site. Currently planned in the five year development plan is a National Guard Armory, various barracks and simulation facilities. This will allow for additional capacity thereby increasing the number of soldiers and airmen that can be trained at the site.

The Clarks Hill Training Site is an approximately 700 acre-training site located in the western portion of South Carolina. It is licensed to the South Carolina National Guard (SCNG) from the Corps of Engi-

neers. This site, along with the McCrady Training Site in Columbia provides various training facilities to more than 9200 Army and 1100 Air National Guardsmen in South Carolina.

Units rotate through the Clarks Hill Training Site throughout the year to complete their weekend and Annual Training (AT) requirements. On average, over 20,000 soldier-days of training have been recorded at this site annually.

There is currently no sewer service in this area of the county. The Plum Branch residents are on septic tanks. The project area has 90 residential, 17 business, and the Clarks Hill National Guard bulk user with an average 3,000 soldiers days per month during peak training months from April to September.

The proposed project consists of the construction of two pump stations and the installation of 34,375 linear feet of sanitary sewer force mains of 12" diameter and other related appurtenances to accommodate sewage from the town of Plum Branch area and the South Carolina National Guard Training Facility on Lake Thurmond.

When this project is complete, the Plum Branch area residents and the S.C. Army National Guard of McCormick County will have a new sewer system and the Plum Branch residents will have the choice of tapping on to the public sewer and individual septic tanks will be taken offline. The S.C. Army National Guard will be equipped to support the growth to train the needed soldiers.

The elimination of septic tanks will reduce the potential to contaminate the water quality of the groundwater. The project should eliminate the potential of wide spread contamination and discharge into the Thurmond Lake located in two states, Georgia and South Carolina; seven counties, Columbia, Lincoln, McDuffie, Wilkes and Elbert counties in Georgia and McCormick and Abbeville counties in South Carolina. The three Corps managed lakes on the Savannah River, the Hartwell, the Richard B. Russell and the J. Strom Thurmond are responsible for maintaining water supply and water quality needs of the Savannah River below Thurmond Dam all the way to Savannah, Ga. and the Atlantic Ocean.

Graham and DeMint announce more than \$1 million in federal funds for sewer project

U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint announced May 2 that McCormick County will receive a \$463,600 grant and a \$627,000 loan to provide sewer service to the Plum Branch area and National Guard Training Facility.

The funds will be used for the installation of two pump stations and 34,375 linear feet of force main.

The grant and loan were awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of the agency's merit-based or competitive allocation process. The South Carolina National Guard is also contributing \$500,000 to the total cost of the project.

SOUTH DAKOTA

WEB Water Development Inc
B-Y Water District Inc

WEB gets USDA water project loan

Expansion of WEB Water Development Association's current capacity to serve rural areas will be funded in part with a \$3.9 million United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development loan to the company.

Officials from USDA and South Dakota Rural Development made the announcement last week. The loan will allow WEB, which serves 7,740 rural hookups and 104 towns and bulk use customers in parts of 14 counties in Northeastern South Dakota and three counties in North Dakota, to help answer the increased demand on the water system. WEB is also providing water service to five ethanol plants and two electrical peaking plants.

Increased demand for water required expansion of WEB's system. While the distribution system was designed to handle increased water delivery, the intake and treatment capacity of the sprawling regional water system had not been increased since 1988. WEB needed a significant increase in ability to bring in raw water and treat it for

distribution.

Along with an additional \$4.8 million loan granted in 2006 for this project combined with additional federal funds from the water and waste development loan program in the amount of \$3.9 million, a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for \$200,000 and a WEB contribution of \$912,055 will fund the project.

In addition, larger new water users (ethanol plants) will contribute \$6,400,722 to the treatment plant expansion and \$3,228,491 to install several miles of parallel mainline pipe which brings the total project cost to \$19,437,268.

"With the upgrades, raw water pumping capacity will be increased to an additional 8 million gallons per day, more than doubling the existing capacity.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

-Katie Zerr

WEB Water Development Association, Inc. upgrades water treatment plant

Allan Johnson, Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development joined with South Dakota Rural Development State Director Mike Jaspers in an Earth Day recognition event for WEB Water Development Association, Inc. and the announcement of \$3.9 million loan.

"USDA Rural Development applauds WEB Water Development Association's efforts to meet the demands of their customers," said Johnson. "Rural Development's contribution to this project reflects the importance of improving the overall quality of life for rural residents."

WEB serves 7,740 rural hookups and 104 towns and bulk use customers in parts of 14 counties in Northeastern South Dakota and three counties in North Dakota. WEB is also providing water service to five ethanol plants and two electrical peaking plants. Prolonged drought conditions and economic development, including new ethanol plants being built, caused a large increase in the demand for clean, potable water from WEB. Increased demand for water required expansion of WEB's system. While the distribution system was designed to handle increased water delivery, the

intake and treatment capacity of the sprawling regional water system had not been increased since 1988. WEB needed a significant increase in ability to bring in raw water and treat it for distribution.

USDA Rural Development awarded an initial loan to WEB in the amount of \$4,796,000 for this project in Fiscal Year 2006. These funds, along with additional federal monies from the water and waste development loan program in the amount of \$3,900,000 will be leveraged with a state community development block grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$200,000 and an applicant contribution of \$912,055. In addition, larger new water users (ethanol plants) will contribute \$6,400,722 to the treatment plant expansion and \$3,228,491 to install several miles of parallel mainline pipe which brings the total project cost to \$19,437,268.

"With the upgrades, raw water pumping capacity will be increased to an additional 8 million gallons per day, more than doubling the existing capacity. The investments made by USDA Rural Development and its partners will assist WEB Water Development Association, Inc. to meet the significant increase in water demand and modest future potential growth," said Jaspers.



Tyndall Tribune & Register

B-Y Water District expands

area with \$3,390,000 funds



Allan Johnson, senior advisor to the under secretary at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development joined South Dakota Rural Development State Director Michael V. Jaspers in a \$3,390,000 Earth Day recognition event for B-Y Water District. The announcement highlights the importance that President Bush and the U.S. Congress places on a strong environmental policy that is compatible with a growing, healthy rural economy.

"USDA Rural Development applauds B-Y Water District's efforts to meet the demands of their customers," said Johnson. "Rural Development's contribution to this project reflects the importance of improving the overall quality of life for rural residents."

B-Y Water District is a large regional water system that provides water to a large area of southeastern South Dakota. An area west of Yankton, near the Lewis & Clark Lake, has experienced significant growth over the years. Due to the economic growth in the area, B-Y Water District was having difficulty in keeping up with the increased demand on the system.

USDA Rural Development water and waste disposal direct loan funds of \$3,390,000 were leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$419,231 for a total project cost of \$3,809,231. These funds will allow B-Y Water System to construct a storage tank that will provide balanced water pressure, reserve water capacity and installation of additional water transmission lines.

"With the upgrades, significantly more water will be delivered into the expanding area. The investments made by USDA Rural Development and B-Y Water District will allow B-Y to meet the significant increase in water demand and additional modest future growth,"

"This project will enhance overall water supply to the Lewis & Clark Lake area, by increasing the quantity of water for the general area. The B-Y Water District Board of Directors is pleased to receive support for this project from USDA Rural Development which enhances the quality of life for rural residents in southeastern South Dakota," said Mike Williams, Manager of the B-Y Water District.

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TENNESSEE

Blaine

\$2.8 million in funding awarded for Blaine sewer project

April 23, 2007

BLAINE (WATE) -- In celebration of Earth Day, officials announced an \$1,786,500 investment to finish funding a new wastewater treatment system for Blaine and surrounding southwest Grainger County.

Congressman Zach Wamp and Rural Development State Director Mary Ruth Tackett joined local leaders and Joppa Elementary School students to award the check during an Earth Day tree planting at Blaine City Hall.

The total federal investment in the project is \$2,807,060. It's made up of: a Rural Development loan of \$1,340,000, a grant of \$446,500, \$520,560 from the Economic Development Agency and a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant.

The funding will build a sewer system to serve 249 residents of Blaine, at first, and the surrounding areas that aren't served.

There have been a high rate of septic system failures for several years while the community population has been growing.

Natural geological conditions are likely part of the problem and they may also contribute to contaminants in the ground water and nearby streams.

This project will build the sewer force main to connect Blaine's system to the Knoxville Utilities Board wastewater treatment plant five miles away.

Residents say the current system has a high rate of septic failures.

"There are several areas in the city where there would be raw sewage running on top of the ground, and there is really not much you can do," said resident Jerry Dalton.

Rural Development invests in water and waste disposal improvements by providing technical and financial assistance through direct and guaranteed loans, in partnership with private lenders, and grants for public and non-profit organizations to develop, improve and repair

water, sewer and storm drainage systems. These programs serve unincorporated areas and cities with a population less than 10,000. USDA Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance through housing, community and business development programs in Tennessee.

In fiscal year 2006, Rural Development assisted more than 467,575 Tennessee families and businesses with over \$288 million in financial assistance through loans and grants. For more information on home ownership, business development or community programs available in the Grainger County area: Contact the Rural Development Area Office in Knoxville at (865)-523-3338 ext. 4 or toll free at 800-342-3149 ext. 1491 Or visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tn>.

UTAH

Orderville Town



Community Programs Director Bonnie Carrig, Utah State Director Jack Cox, Orderville Mayor Brad Adair and Area Specialist Hal Nielson pose with Earth Day certificate. Carrig said, "The Orderville water project was selected for an Earth Day award because it is a unique project and it is important for your citizens." Photo by Donna Birk.

Orderville receives Earth Day recognition and huge monetary award for conservation project

By Dixie Brunner

Orderville residents will be drinking better after the United States Department of Agriculture rural development division awarded \$1,480,000 for a conservation project (\$409,000 grant and \$1,071,000 loan).

The project entails combining the three water systems of Orderville, Mt. Carmel and Mt. Carmel Junction by building two storage tanks, extending transmission lines and renovating the distribution system to provide safe and reliable drinking water.

A seven mile, 12 inch main line will be installed from Mt. Carmel to Mt. Carmel Junction. There will be replacement of undersized hydrants, lines and rotting connections. Radio read meters will be installed in Orderville, and a chlorination building will be built as well.

Orderville was in serious need of the H₂O relief, and they contacted the USDA, along with the Drinking Water Board and CDBG, for project financing.

The existing system was old and needed numerous, expen-

sive replacements. One tank leaked, and one well was experiencing frequent power outages due to overheating problems. Another tank works, but is not in good operating condition.

And then, there were the water transmission pipes...too small to deliver required flows, or made of brittle material difficult to repair. The town's distribution system and water connections are made of galvanized steel, which leak badly or have completely rotted in places. Orderville also has no chlorine water treatment facilities.

With only one water source, the town has little redundancy in an emergency. The water system currently serves 250 residents and 55 businesses.

The 2007 Earth Day special recognition award for the town's efforts was presented to Orderville Mayor Brad Adair by Utah State Director Jack Cox.

The amount of the award will be distributed as follows: actual loan \$1,071,000; grant \$409,000; and other \$2,385,000, for a grand total of \$3,918,000.

Grazing

Continued from Page 1

counties were using public monies to help private individuals and should be prohibited from doing so.

The counties claimed the benefit of financing the litigation would be increased tax revenue.

The rationale being if the private individuals were successful in obtaining the grazing permits and started operations, the counties' tax revenue would increase. They said the reverse is also true - the counties are suffering decreased tax revenue because the lands are not being utilized for grazing.

"It seems to me that the

counties are not receiving any clear present benefit for the money they are paying on behalf of the private individuals," wrote Judge Mower in his ruling. "In addition, any benefit they may receive in the future is speculative and uncertain because the outcome of the federal litigation is unknown and uncertain."

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WASHINGTON

Summit Water and Supply Company
Town of Washtunca
City of Entiat

South Sound water supply company nets \$2.8 million federal grant

USDA Rural Development has approved a conditional commitment to Valley Bank of Puyallup on behalf of Summit Water and Supply District for a Water and Waste Disposal Guaranteed Loan of \$2.8 million to build the new water storage tank.

USDA Rural Development will present a ceremonial big check for loan guarantee to Daryl Scott - Summit Water and Supply District as part of the 38th Annual Earth Day observation.

The Summit Water and Supply Company, Inc., is a non-profit water system that currently services 4,906 customers in Pierce County's West Puyallup

and Summit area. The Company needed to construct a water tank to increase water pressure and for fire flow.

When this project is complete, the existing water system will have increased water pressure and fire protection for area residents. The new water storage tank will complete the needed upgrades for Summit Water and Supply Company.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76.8 billion

since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Over 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov or www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa.

Summit Water And Supply Company

Loan: \$2,800,000.00 (loan guarantee)
Total: \$2,800,000.00

Congressman: Adam Smith, 9th
Senators: Patty Murray
Maria Cantwell

Outline of Need:

The Summit Water and Supply Company, Inc., is a non-profit water system that currently services 4,906 customers in Pierce County's West Puyallup and Summit area. The Company needed to construct a water tank to increase water pressure and for fire flow.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development has approved a conditional commitment to Valley Bank of Puyallup for a Water and Waste Disposal Guaranteed Loan of \$2.8 million to build the new water storage tank.

The Results:

When this project is complete, the existing water system will have increased water pressure and fire protection for area residents. The new water storage tank will complete the needed upgrades for Summit Water and Supply Company.



Summit Water & Supply District in Pierce County planted a tree (left) in commemoration of Earth Day following a big check presentation for a Water & Waste Disposal Loan Guarantee of \$2.8 million. Photo left from left to right is Daryl Scott (Summit), Jon DeVaney, Debra Entenman, representing Congressman Adam Smith (9th District), and Leo Dreith, representing Valley Bank of Puyallup.

Washtucna gets green light for water, wastewater projects

Agriculture Under Secretary Thomas C. Derr celebrated the 37th anniversary of Earth Day on April 23 by announcing U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development funding of 61 new rural water and wastewater community systems in 50 states, including Washington, totaling nearly \$180 million.

Of the funding announced last week, more than \$4.9 million will be awarded to five Washington state communities.

Last week in the Town of Washtucna, USDA Rural Development presented loan and grant combinations totaling \$760,000 for needed system upgrades to the town's water and wastewater facilities.

Of that total, \$199,000 loan and \$108,000 in grant funding are for the wastewater system upgrades. Total cost of the project is \$1,248,000 and has leveraged funds from a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Washington State Public Works Trust Fund and the town.

Wastewater system upgrades/improvements include replacing the sewer lift station and emergency generator; repair/replacement of existing lagoon piping and flow control structures; the construction of an effluent chlorine disinfection and pumping system; the construction of an effluent irrigation system as well as other improvements.

The proposed water project includes installing new water meters, piping and a chlorination system at the town well. Total project cost is \$1,623,000. USDA Rural Development is providing \$110,000 from a loan and \$345,000 from a grant. CDBG, Washington State



Journal photo by Jennifer Larsen

BIG BOOST. Mike Poulson, agriculture and natural resource policy director for Congresswoman Cathy McMorris-Rodgers, stands with Senator Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville), Steve Thoenle, community programs specialist for U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Jon DeVaney, state director of USDA Rural Development to congratulate Washtucna Mayor Syd Sullivan at a Big Check presentation in Washtucna on April 26. The \$762,000 will help fund water and wastewater treatment upgrades.

PWTF and the town stepped up the remaining \$1,153,000.

Earth Day is observed annually on April 22 to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the environment. The USDA funding will help communities upgrade sewage systems to better manage storm runoff, expand and/or upgrade water treatment plants, extend water service to new residents and build a renewable energy generation facility.

USDA Rural Development will provide a \$2.6 million loan guarantee through Valley Bank of

Puyallup to the Summit Water and Supply Company to build a new storage tank.

In the City of Bristat, Chelan County, USDA Rural Development funded a \$1.3 million direct loan to help replace the treatment process of the city's existing wastewater treatment plant that was built in 1977 and 1978 and is nearing its design capacity.

The Denning Water Association, Inc., which serves the 210 residents living in the unincorporated community of Denning, Whatcom County, will receive a \$135,000

Water and Waste Disposal Direct loan to replace two existing water storage tanks with a new 237,000 gallon concrete reservoir. The new storage capacity would then meet the needs of the community for daily demand and fire flow.

A complete list of the selected loan and grant recipients and projects can be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/newsroom/news.htm>.

Additional information about these programs and other key USDA accomplishments is featured on an Earth Day Backgrounder at www.usda.gov.

Town of Washtucna

RD Loan: \$ 199,000.00
RD Loan: \$ 110,000.00
RD Grant: \$ 108,000.00
RD Grant: \$ 345,000.00

Other: \$ 941,000.00
Other: \$1,153,000.00

Total Sewer: \$1,248,000.00
Total Water: \$1,623,000.00

Congressman: Cathy McMorris-Rodgers, 5th
Senators: Patty Murray
Maria Cantwell

Outline of Need:

The Town of Washtucna, a small rural community located in Southeast Washington State, needed system upgrades and renovations to maintain a safe and viable water system. Additionally, the community's wastewater treatment facility is in need of considerable repair.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development has worked with this community since 1997 to plan for the needed upgrades and renovations. The proposed water project provides significant renovations to the town's existing water system, specifically to install water meters, install new piping and a new chlorination system at the town well. Total cost of the project is \$1,623,000 and has leveraged funds from a Washington State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF), and applicant's contribution.

The proposed wastewater system improvements includes the replacement of the sewer lift station and emergency generator; repair/replacement of existing lagoon piping and flow control structures; the construction of an effluent chlorine disinfection and pumping system; the construction of an effluent irrigation system as well as other improvements. Total cost of the project is \$1,248,000 and has leveraged funds from a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CDBG, Washington State PWTF, and applicant's contribution.

The Results:

When this project is complete, the 260 residents of Washtucna will have a safer and more viable water system; as well as a more efficient and upgraded sewer system.



Photo (above) - The Town of Washtucna received a combination of loans and grants to upgrade their water and wastewater systems. Presenting the check to Mayor Sid Sullivan were Mike Poulson, representing Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rogers (5th District), State Senator Mark Schoesler, Steve Troendle, and Jon DeVaney.

Federal grants to help Washtucna update its water, sewer systems

MARY HOPKIN

HERALD STAFF WRITER

The city of Washtucna will receive \$453,000 in grants and \$309,000 in loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to update its water and sewer systems.

Mayor Syd Sullivan said the Department of Ecology told the city several years ago that it had to line its wastewater lagoons. When the lagoons were installed in 1973, they were lined with a mixture of soil and clay to keep wastewater from seeping into the ground water.

"They called it a percolator system," he said.

Now they call it out-of-date.

But the city, which has about 115 households, hasn't had the money to line the lagoons, which will cost about \$1 million.

"The Department of Ecology has been very patient with us," said Sullivan, who has served as the city's mayor for 30 years. "This was supposed to have been done five years ago."

The city has applied for grants to get the work done at least three times, but has been unsuccessful until now.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded nearly \$180 million Monday to upgrade rural water systems in observance of Earth Day.

"These projects will build and improve rural water and sewage systems and rural communities will benefit through cleaner water, recreation and wildlife resources," Thomas Dorr, the USDA's undersecretary, said in a statement.

The grants will help communities upgrade sewage systems to manage storm runoff, expand or upgrade water treatment plants, extend water service to new residents and build renewable energy generation facilities.

"Once we get this work done, our infrastructure should be in good shape," Sullivan said.

► Mary Hopkin: 585-7207; mhopkin@tricityherald.com

City of Entiat

Rural Development Loan	\$1,300,000.00 (plus \$2,796,000 RD loan/grant in FY06)
Public Works Trust Fund	\$461,800.00;
City of Entiat	\$65,000.00
Total:	\$4,623,000.00

Congressman Richard "Doc" Hastings, 4th District; Senators: Patty Murray & Maria Cantwell

Outline of Need:

The City of Entiat's current wastewater treatment plant was built in 1977/78 and is nearing its design capacity. Entiat has grown eight percent annually, four times the growth across the region and state.

How Rural Development Helped:

The City of Entiat contacted USDA Rural Development (along with the Washington State Public Works Trust Fund) for financing of the project, which would consist of replacing the treatment process of the existing plant with a new Sequence batch Reactor and upgrading lift stations.

The Results:

When this project is complete, Entiat will have a better system that more adequately serves the increased population growth and strong demand for residential housing.



Photo (below) - The City of Entiat was presented with a \$1.3 million big check for an upgrade for the city's waste waer treatment plant. Below photo, left to right - Mayor Wendell Black, Jon DeVaney, Russell Davis, and Barb Lisk, representing Congressman Doc Hastings (4th District).

WISCONSIN

Danbury Sanitary District
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of WI

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY 2007

This year's Earth Day is very special to the Danbury Area. Wisconsin Rural Development, along with other financing partners, has made it possible to fund a Water and Sewer project for the Danbury area. Participating in the celebration will be special representative guests from many agencies including Rural Development's Deputy Administrator/Rural Business & Cooperative Programs from Washington D.C., Ben Anderson and Frank Frassetto, Wisconsin State Director. Also attending will be representatives from the Wisconsin DNR, congressional and other political offices, local leaders, St. Croix Tribal drum core, S.E.H., Webster School music group and many others. Governor Knowles State Forest will also provide seedling trees to the first 50 guests that attend.

We invite the public to join us for this special ceremony and refreshments on Tuesday, April 24th at 1:00pm.

We hope to see you there. If you have questions, please call Karen Felix 715-656-4121 or contact Sue Kohnen at 715-345-7600 ext 115.

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WHEN:

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

12:45 PM ... Refreshments will be served

1:00 PM ... Program will begin

WHERE:

Blueberry Junction Park

Hwy 77 (Main Street)

Danbury WI

WHAT:

USDA, Rural Development will join with the St. Croix Chippewa, the Danbury Joint Water Quality Commission and the Danbury Area Chamber of Commerce as they sponsor an event in celebration of Earth Day 2007.

Master of Ceremonies will be Kevin Klucas, Past President of the Joint Water Quality Commission

The celebration program will begin at 1:00 at Blueberry Junction Park, with the St. Croix Drum Ceremony, presentation of the American flag and singing of the National Anthem by the Webster School choir, followed by guest speakers.

Guest speakers anticipated:

- ★ Representatives of USDA Rural Development (including Wisconsin State Director Frank Frassetto and from the National Office/Washington DC, Ben Anderson, Deputy Administrator/Rural Business & Cooperative Programs).
- ★ Matthew Rudig, Representative of Congressman David Obey
- ★ Marshall Hill, Sanitary District President
- ★ Jerry Doreitt, Project Engineer
- ★ Others?

A ceremonial tree planting will follow the speakers, and the program will conclude with closing comments.

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A press release highlighting specifics of the funding of the new water and sewer systems for the Danbury and St. Croix communities will be provided following the event.

BURNETT COUNTY HEADLINES

Danbury celebrates Earth Day in a big way**\$8.8 million loan and grant money for water project**

by Carl Heidel

DANBURY - It was an Earth Day like no other for the folks of Danbury and members of the St. Croix band of Chippewa Indians. Dignitaries came from as far as Washington, DC to help the two communities celebrate their progress toward creation of a quality water program for Danbury and the Tribe.

Speaker after speaker praised the cooperative endeavor to build a sewer and water system that will serve the village and the reservation. Master of ceremonies Kevin Klucas, "retired" chairman of the project, praised the people for the way "two nations are coming together to care for the earth."

Bryce Luchterhand, Northern Office Director for Governor Jim Doyle, thanked the communities for what they were doing to preserve Wisconsin. Frank Frassetto, State Director for Rural Development, said, "Issues are being addressed. You can be proud of this."

Pictured are some of the participants and events in the celebration.



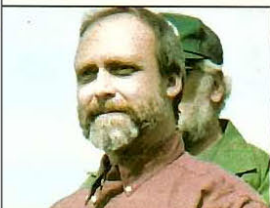
Assembled dignitaries planted a tree and held "checks" totaling the \$8.8 million coming for the project. Pictured (L-R) Dan Thill (Gov. Knowles State Forest), Brian Deaneer (USDA), Pattie Edwards (St. Croix Tribe, JWQC), Marshall Hill (JWQC), Karen Felix (JWQC) and Danbury Chamber of Commerce President, Von Shanks (Utilities Supervisor-St. Croix Tribe), Jerry Doriott (SEH), Sue Larson (SEH), Heather Kleimola (US Dept. of Public Health), Eric Lindman (US Dept of Public Health), **Frank Frassetto** (Rural Development), Ben Anderson (USDA), Bryce Luchterhand (Gov. Doyle's office), Matthew Rudig (Congressman Dave Obey's Superior office), and Laura Hojem (US National Park Service).

SEWER AND WATER SYSTEM UTILITIES LAYOUT AND LOCATION

Several posters were displayed to picture the various parts of the new water-sewer system. This diagram showed the layout of the entire system.



Jerry Doriott, Sr. Professional Engineer with SEH (the engineering firm working on the project), explained the project and answered questions from visitors.



Marshall Hill, current director of the Joint Water Quality Commission (JWQC), watched the day's proceedings.



Sisters Leighann and Brittany Flatten, Webster High School students, sang the national anthem backed with a colors presentation by VFW Post 1256.



Bruce Sonnenberg of the St. Croix Tribe brought the drum Running Thunder from Cumberland. The drum sang several songs, including one honoring the people and the water.



Dadta Sukheviria, a Webster High School student, sang a special Earth Day song. She and the Flatten sisters drew high praise from the crowd for the beauty of their singing.

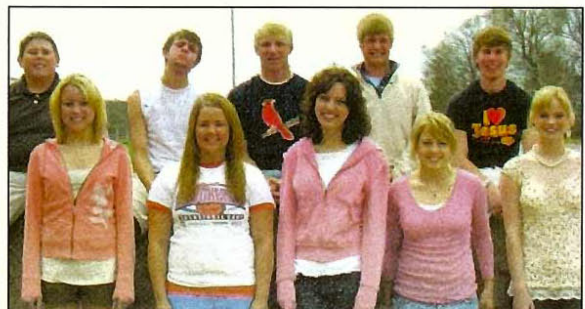


Ben Anderson, Associate Administrator in the Rural Development department of the **US Department of Agriculture**, commented on the \$8.8 million dollars in grant and loan money that will flow into the Danbury/Tribe project. He commented, "Development in rural areas depends upon local leadership."



When Bruce Sonnenberg spoke to the crowd, he praised those gathered for their care for Mother Earth.

Photos by Carl Heidel

Luck Prom Court

"A Night in Hollywood" is the theme of Luck High School's 2007 prom this Saturday, April 28. The grand march and coronation will be held at 3 p.m. in the elementary gymnasium, and the post-prom party will be from midnight to 3:30 a.m. at McKenzie Lanes in Centuria. Junior prom royalty (L to R) in back are Nate Nelson, Harlan Opitz, Casey Hatten, Kody Erickson, and Wally Rich. In front are Megan Hacker, Jessica Antonson, Sarah Petersen, Emily Smith, and Chelsea Rasmussen. — Photo by Mary Stirrat



NEWS RELEASE

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E-mail: Sue.Kohnen@wi.usda.gov

- - - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - - -

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

\$8.8 Million Announced For Danbury and St. Croix Tribe Sewer & Water Systems

Danbury WI, April 24, 2007 – Agriculture Under Secretary Thomas C. Dorr celebrated the 37th anniversary of Earth Day this week by announcing USDA Rural Development funding of 61 new rural water and wastewater community systems in 29 states totaling nearly \$180 million.

"These projects will build and improve rural water and sewage systems, and rural communities will benefit through cleaner water, recreation and wildlife resources," Dorr said. "USDA is working with communities across America to provide investment financing and an improved quality of life for local residents."

Wisconsin was one of the 29 States to receive an Earth Day project designation and funding. At a celebration here today, Frank Frassetto, State Director of the Wisconsin Rural Development announced an \$8.8 Million contribution from the Federal Government to the communities of Danbury and the St. Croix Tribe of Chippewa Indians for new water and sewer systems.

The combined project cost is \$13.4 million with the State of Wisconsin, the DNR and Indian Health Services coming in with the additional \$4.6 Million to complete the project.

"This effort shows how we meet our agency goals to provide economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for rural Wisconsin residents", said Frassetto. "We are very excited about the positive impact Rural Development is making in creating safe water in these two communities, as well as the positive impact it will have on the area's scenic waterways", he continued.

Currently there are concerns with failing septic systems, contaminated wells, and the potential for a negative impact on the St. Croix River that borders the community. The St. Croix River is listed on the National Scenic Rivers and Outstanding Resource Waters in the State of Wisconsin. Neither the tribal community nor the Sanitary District now has municipal water or sewer systems; this project will construct one system to serve both.

"This project is another example of the Bush Administration's efforts to build a stronger rural America", said Ben Anderson, Rural Development's Deputy Administrator/Rural Business & Cooperative Programs, who came from Washington DC to join in the funding announcement and honor Earth Day in Wisconsin.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on programs available through USDA Rural Development is available by visiting the agency's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi.

